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Directory

of the

Mennonite Church,

At

Bluffton and Pandora, O.

Year 1903.

Althaus, Ewing & Co.,

Bluffton, Ohio,

DEALERS IN

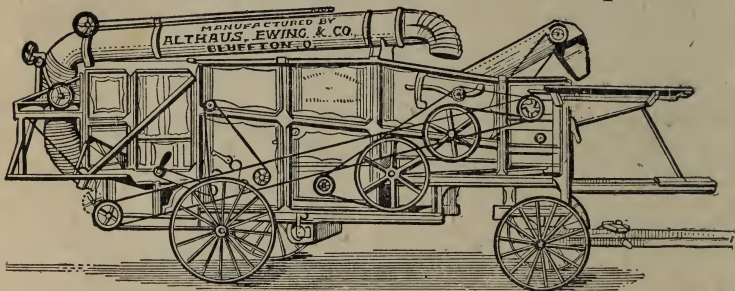
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P. HILTY,
N. MOSER,
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S. HILTY, Ass't. Supt.
ALBERT SCHUMACHER,
Sec'y. and Treas.

ST. JOHN

P. HILTY, Supt.
P. SUTTER, Ass't. Supt.
D. J. BASINGER,
Sec'y. and Treas.

BLUFFTON

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SELMA SUTTER,	-	-	-	-	Secretary.
ED. HILTY,	-	-	-	-	Treasurer.



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FLORENCE KOHLI,	-	-	-	-	Sec'y. and Treas.



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A Short Sketch of the Origin and Progress of the Mennonites In the Settlement.

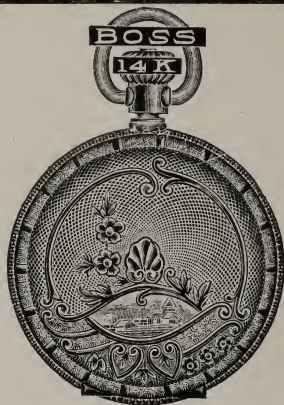


The founder and first settler in the Settlement was Michael Neuenschwander, born March 9, 1778 at Blumbergerwald, Canton de Delle, (Arondissement de Belfart Department du Haut Rhein, en France.) His grand parents, on account of their religious belief had moved from Bern to this place where they might worship God with greater freedom and according to the dictates of their conscience. On May 15, 1823 Michael Neuenschwander with his wife and three children then bade farewell to their native land and came to the United States, arriving at Chippawa, Wayne County, Ohio, October 4 the same year, requiring nearly five months to make the journey that we now travel in two weeks.

At Chippawa he bought himself a home and lived there about ten years, then he sold the same and on August 29, 1833 with his family moved to Riley Creek, Putnam County, Ohio, where on September 30th he built a log cabin. This was the first house built by a German in this section now called the Settlement. Mr. Neuenschwander bought from the government 560 acres at one and one-fourth dollars per acre.

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As this became known in Wayne and Holmes Counties, this state, several brethren came to visit Mr. Neuenschwander and family, and being favorably impressed with the new territory each purchased a tract of land before returning. In 1834 Christian Bucher, Christian Suter, John Moser (not Bishop J. Moser,) Ursus Amstutz and their families moved here from Holmes County. In the following spring John Christian and Ulrich Basinger and John Lugibill followed, so in the fall of 1835 the colony consisted of nine families, all of whom were members of the Swiss Mennonite church. Although they all, excepting Messrs. Bucher and Moser, came from France, they were natives of Switzerland. While at France, however, they were only renters.

In the summer of 1835 Bishop Christian Steiner with his family and several brethren and sisters left Buchwald of the above named Canton Delle, France, and moved to Wayne County. They were not there long, however, until Bishop Steiner in company with three of his brothers and a few brethren of the church came to Putnam County and purchased land moving onto it in the fall of 1835.

The following year a number of families moved here from Wayne and Holmes Counties, among whom was Deacon Christian Basinger. By this time the colony numbered twenty families, their names as follows: Michael Neuenschwander, Christian Suter, Christian Bucher, John Moser, Ursus Amstutz, John, Christian and Ulrich Basinger, John Lugibill, Christian, John and Peter Steiner, John Schumacher, Christian Neuenschwander, Christian

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OHIO.

Schumacher, Christian Basinger, John Diller, Christian Amstutz, John Lugibill and Simon Basinger.

In 1837 Christian Suter was ordained to the Ministry and the congregation increased so that soon another ordination followed in which Ulrich Steiner was chosen as Minister and John C. Lugibill as Deacon. In 1843 Preacher John M. Amstutz and family, of Switzerland, moved here. By this time Bishop Christian Steiner was well up in years, so his son Preacher Ulrich Steiner was ordained Bishop. Three years later Bishop Christian Steiner died.

The church services were held in barns and houses of the different members until about 1880, when a hewn log meeting house was built on the farm of David Neuenschwander, (now owned by Cleo. Neuenschwander.) In 1857, on this same site, a large and more substantial house was erected and in 1876 the same was enlarged.

In the year 1846 there was also a church built on the land then owned by Christian Lugibill, just across the street from where the Ebenezer church now stands. In 1869 the Ebenezer church was built and rebuilt in 1883. It may be well to state that the two first churches were also used for school purposes.

The year 1853 is a memorable one, as typhoid fever raged in the Settlement, attacking the stoutest young people many of whom died of its effects. In August of the same year Bishop Ulrich Steiner also died at the age of 38 years.

In the fall of the same year John Moser and Chris-

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BLUFFTON, O.

tian Steiner were ordained to the Ministry, and Preacher Christian Suter chosen Bishop, the latter filling the vacancy caused by the death of Bishop Ulrich Steiner. In 1683 Preacher John M. Amstutz died. In 1864 according to the wish of Bishop Suter, John Moser was also ordained to the office of Bishop. In 1872 Deacon John C. Lugibill died, and the following year Peter P. Steiner, (Deacon at present) ordained to succeed him. At the close of 1874 Christian Suter passed from time to eternity and two years later Christian Zimmerly was ordained Preacher.

At this time Sunday School was organized and the church numbered about 450 members. On July 31, 1881 Benjamin Diller was chosen as a Minister, and in the spring of 1890 Preacher Zellers was received into the church as a brother and minister.

In 1888 the construction of the St. Johns church was commenced but not completed until the following year. It was dedicated to God's service in October of 1889, at which time the Middle District Conference held an interesting session. In 1893, in this same church, the General Conference of the Mennonites of North America again convened in it, at which time the church united with that body. In the fall of 1900 the Middle District Conference was again held in this church.

March 8, 1903 P. P. Hilty and Albert Schumacher were elected Evangelists on probation..

June 17, 1903

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This list was carefully copied from the church records, yet mistakes and omissions may have occurred, which will be corrected in subsequent issues.

A

Aerni, Dinah	Althaus, Mary
Aeschbacher. Joseph	Althaus, Lizzie
Althaus, Gotthard	Amstutz, C. U.
Althaus, Mrs. Elizabeth S.	Amstutz, C. D.
Althaus, John	Amstutz, Barbara
Althaus, Jacob	Amstutz, Adam
Althaus, Johanna	Amstutz, Mrs. Mary S.
Althaus, Mrs. Barbara A.	Amstutz, Samuel
Althaus, Mary	Amstutz, J. U.
Althaus, Magdalena	Amstutz, Mrs. Elizabeth M.
Althaus, William	Amstutz, Mary Ann
Althaus, Daniel	Amstutz, Mrs. Barbara T.
Althaus, Josephine	Amstutz, J. S.
Althaus, Menno	Amstutz, Mrs. Elizabeth B.
Althaus. Amos	Amstutz, C. B.
Althaus, Mrs Elizabeth M.	Amstutz, Mrs. Catherine L.
Althaus, Barbara	Amstutz, P. E.
Althaus, Albert	Amstutz, Mrs. Leah G
Althaus, Monroe	Amstutz, Lydia
Althaus, Peter	Amstutz, Jonas
Althaus, Sarah	Amstutz, Mrs. Veronica A.
Althaus, Ezra	Amstutz, Daniel
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 Amstutz, Llewellyn
 Amstutz, Mrs. Dinah
 Amstutz, Mrs. Anna E
 Amstutz A. M.
 Amstutz, Mrs. Catherine H.
 Amstutz, Jacob
 Amstutz, Mrs. Catherine B.
 Amstutz, P. D.
 Amstutz, Adam
 Amstutz, Elias
 Amstutz, Moses
 Amstutz, Aldine
 Amstutz, S. A.
 Amstutz, Mrs. Elizabeth K.
 Amstutz, U. S.
 Amstutz, Amos
 Amstutz, P. A.
 Amstutz, Joshua
 Amstutz, Ephriam
 Amstutz, Lydia

Amstutz, Lavina
 Amstutz, Rosina M.
 Amstutz, S. S.
 Amstutz, Jesse
 Amstutz, Bertha
 Amstutz, Joel
 Amstutz, Edwin
 Amstutz, Minnie
 Amstutz, Helen
 Amstutz, Martha
 Amstutz, Hettie
 Amstutz, Lavina
 Amstutz, Pauline
 Amstutz, Philip
 Augsburger, J. B.
 Augsburger, Moses
 Augsburger, Mrs. Fannie H.
 Augsburger, Henry
 Augsburger, Mrs. Barbara
 Augsburger, Sarah
 Augsburger, Samuel
 Augsburger, Elias
 Augsburger, Emma
 Augsburger, Gideon
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Badertscher, Mrs. Lydia A.	Basinger, Lucinda
Badertscher, Gideon	Basinger, Adam
Badertscher, Sarah	Basinger, Mary
Badertscher, Henry	Basinger, Mary Ann
Badertscher, Barbara	Basinger, Samuel
Badertscher, Emma	Basinger, Daniel
Badertscher, Sarah	Basinger, Mrs. Orpha
Badertscher, Lydia	Basinger, Barbara
Badertscher, Peter	Basinger, Fannie
Badertscher, Noah	Basinger, Elvina
Badertscher, Susanna	Basinger, Abr.
Badertscher, Theresa	Basinger, Mrs. Cathrine G.
Badertscher, Helena	Basinger, Samuel
Baer, Emma	Basinger, Mary Ann
Baer, J. B.	Basinger, Benjamin
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Basinger, C. D.	Baumgartner, D. D.
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Basinger, Anna	Bixel, John
Basinger, Sarah	Bixel, Noah
Basinger, Ephriam	Bixel, Adam
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Basinger, Elisabeth	Bixel, Samuel
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Branen, Ernest	Burkholder, Mary A.
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Bucher, Peter	Burkholder, Gideon
Bucher, Fannie	Burkholder, A. A.
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Bucher, Peter	Burkholder, Sarah
Bucher, Ephriam	Burkholder, J. B.
Bucher, J. C.	Burkholder, Jacob W.
Bucher, Mrs. Anna	Burkholder, Menno
Bucher, Adam	Burkholder, C. C.
Bucher, John	Burkholder, Samuel
Bucher, Gideon	Burkholder, John
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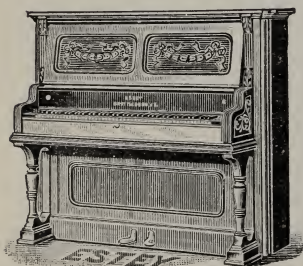
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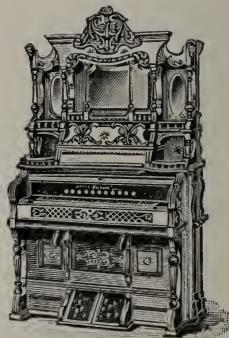
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 Flath, Philip
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G

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 Geiger, Eldon
 Geiger, Tilman
 Geiger, Slewellyn
 Geiger, Benjamin
 Geiger, Mrs. Mary D.
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 Geiger, Sarah
 Geiger, J. S.
 Geiger, Matilda
 Geiger, Helen
 Geiger, Enos
 Geiger, Gideon
 Geiger, Hettie
 Geiger, Elizabeth
 Geiger, Susanna
 Geiger, Clara
 Geiger, Sarah
 Geiger, Bertha
 Geiger, Elizabeth
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 Gerber, David
 Gerber, Mrs. Fannie S.
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 Gerber, Mrs. Anna S.
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 Gratz, Lena
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 Gratz, Clara
 Grismore, Mrs. Barbara A.
 Grismore, Viola

H

Haas, Bertha
 Habegger, Barbara
 Habegger, Elisabeth
 Habegger, Noah
 Hager, John
 Hager, Mrs. Elisabeth
 Herr, P. C.
 Herr, N. C.
 Herr, Sarah
 Herr, Daniel
 Hilty, J. S.

Hilty, Mrs. Magdalena S.
 Hilty, B. B.
 Hilty, Helena
 Hilty, P. B.
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 Hilty, Samuel
 Hilty, Mrs. Fannie G.
 Hilty, Mrs. Elisabeth S.
 Hilty, Peter
 Hilty, Christian
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 Pilty, Amos
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 Hilty, Albert
 Hilty, P. S.
 Hilty, Mary
 Hilty, Samuel
 Hilty E. B.
 Hilty, Mrs. Rosa M.
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 Hilty, Sarah
 Hilty, C. S.
 Hilty, Elisabeth
 Hilty, Elvina
 Hilty, Dora
 Hilty, Oswin
 Hilty, Phillip
 Hilty, Viola

THE ARRAS CREAM EXTRACTOR



Pat. May 21, 1901.

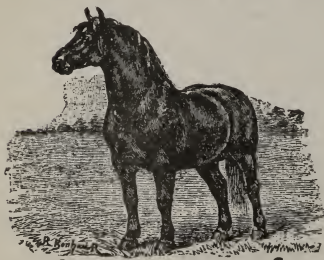
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 Kieble, Mrs. Mary Ann A.
 Kiefer, Chas.
 Kiefer, Mrs. Emma S.
 Kiene, John
 Kiene, Henrietta
 Kiene, Emma
 Kiener, Benjamin
 Kiener, Mrs. Mary Ann B.
 Keiner, Savels
 Kindle, Herman
 King, Mrs. Catherine
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 King, Sarah
 King, David
 King, Samuel
 King Mrs. Catherine
 Klay, Mrs. Fannie
 Klay, Mrs. Magdalena

Klay, Annie
 Klay, Mrs. Mary Ann K.
 Klay, Emma
 Kohli, Daniel
 Kohli, Mrs. Christian
 Kohli, Emanuel
 Kohli, Mrs. Sarah
 Kohli, Aldine
 Kohli, Florentine

L

Lauby, Mrs. Leah
 Lauby, Matilda
 Lichty, Christian
 Lichty, Leah
 Lichty, Abraham
 Lichty, J. C.
 Lichty, Mrs. Mary Ann H.
 Lichty, Mrs. Mary Ann S.
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 Locher, Christian
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 Lugibihl, Martha
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 Moser, Mrs. Emma K.
 Moser, Jacob
 Moser, Mrs. Caroline S.
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 Moser, Mrs. Mary

N

Neuenschwander, Catherine
 Neuenschwander, Willis
 Neuenschwander, Calvin
 Neuenschwander, Daniel
 Neuenschwander, Levi
 Neuenschwander, Melinda
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 Neuenschwander, Caroline
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 Neuenschwander, Clara
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 Neuenschwander, Rhoda
 Nusbaum, Mrs. Barbara
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O

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R

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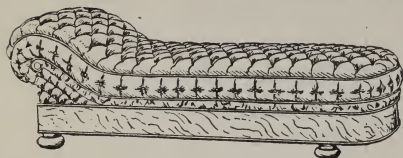
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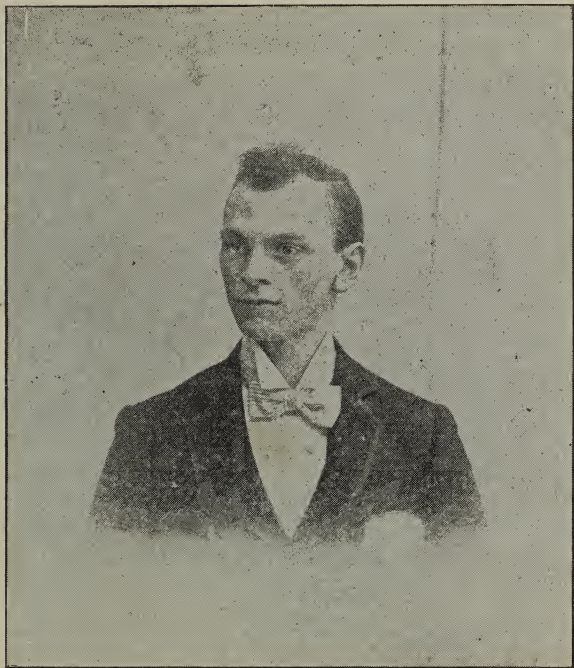
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